

THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

PART 1

The solution of the problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the Economic Problem

PART 3

The Social Basis of the Third Universal Theory

In these three volumes the Libyan leader examines the economic, social and political problems confronting the world today, and presents a radical programme for their solution.

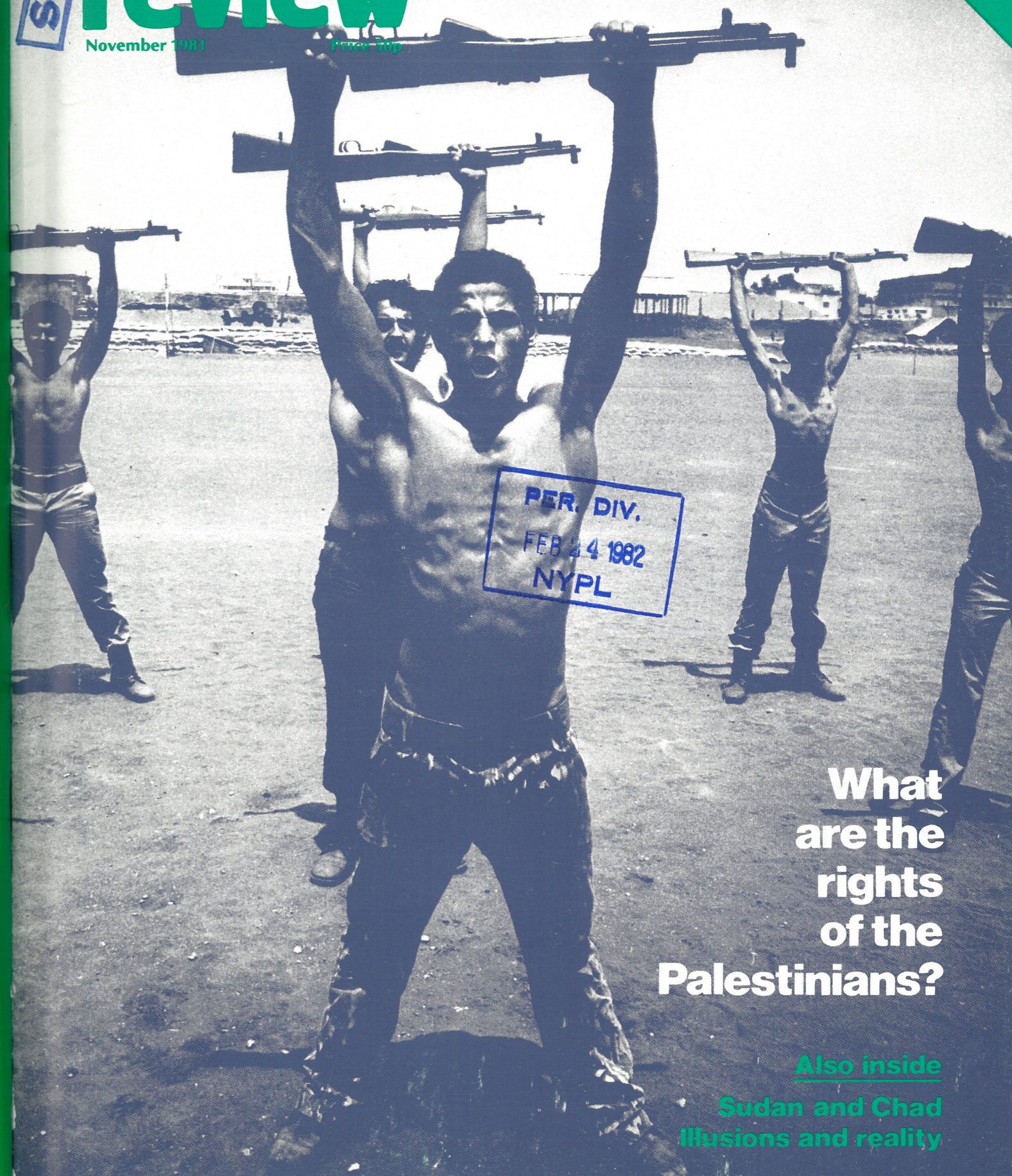
The Green Book provides a comprehensive review of the theories on which the Libyan Jamahiriya is based. The proposals put forward by Muammer al Qadhafi are not merely theories but an explanation and insight into the structure and priorities of modern Libya.

Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

STAGNANT Jamahiriya review

November 1981

Peace Stop



What
are the
rights
of the
Palestinians?

Also inside
Sudan and Chad
Illusions and reality

Libyan
Industry
Secretary
visits Britain

Cartoon Comments



jamahiriya review

Issue 18 November 1981

WITH REGULARITY the international press plays mouthpiece to a vicious propaganda war against the Libyan Jamahiriya and its leader Muammer Qadhafi, supporting Washington's scheme to isolate revolutionary Libya as part of America's destabilisation plan. In a recent interview with Der Spiegel, Muammer Qadhafi answered with honesty and frankness extensive questions put to him by the German journalists. Extracts from this interview, in which Qadhafi states clearly his views, appear on pages 9 and 10.

MUCH OF the recent propaganda campaign against Libya has been centred on the Libyan role as peacekeepers in Chad. Confronted with rising unrest and opposition, Sudan's President Numeiri has launched a series of wild, and unsubstantiated claims against Qadhafi and Libya. In an extended report on page 11 to 13, Phil Kelly examines the motives behind Numeiri's allegations, and looks at Libya's contribution to stability in Chad.

IN LONDON, however, despite the Americans' anti-Libyan campaign, a recent visit by the Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretary underlined the continuing desire by both Britain and Libya to strengthen their trade relations. Dr Alan George talked to the Libyan Secretary about British opportunities to participate in the country's multi-billion dollar development programme — see page 16.

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The conquest of Arabia: The real deal behind the AWACS sale

BRUSHING ASIDE the events of Iran and the execution of Sadat, the Americans have proceeded with a plan to secure a firm military presence in the Arab homeland under the guise of AWACS sales to Saudi Arabia. The AWACS sale was of much greater importance to the Reagan administration than it was to the Saudi government. Providing the cover for a far-reaching American scheme for the region, the deal by which the United States is to supply airborne early warning and control systems (AWACS) and other military equipment is only part of a total package which effectively will transform Saudi Arabia into an American bridgehead in the area.

The *Washington Post* reported on 1st November that the AWACS deal was the culmination of a secret strategy which dated from the administration of President Carter, and which had been carried on by the Reagan administration. According to the report, Saudi Arabia is to allow the United States to establish a number of military bases on its territory. The bases will not be operational under normal circumstances, but would be made available to the United States 'if the Soviet Union or other hostile forces attempted to capture the Persian Gulf oil fields on which America and other western nations depend'.

The AWACS — which will not be operational until 1985 — will form part of a regional air defence system into which it is planned to integrate the other Gulf states as and when they are willing.

The revelations go some way towards explaining the inconsistencies in American policy which have been evident since the Carter administration announced the creation of the Rapid Deployment Force in response to the overthrow of the Shah of Iran, which deprived the United States of its principal surrogate state in the region after Israel.

Critics of Carter's RDF proposals pointed out that it made little military sense. If any of the situations in which Washington said the RDF would actually be used became a reality, then the crisis would not be confined to the Middle East; it would be probably the most dangerous moment for the world since the end of World War II. The forces assigned to the RDF already had roles to play in such a crisis, some in the defence of Europe. In any case, no large force, with its weapons, could have been on the ground in the Gulf region and capable of fighting a sustained war, in a short enough time.

The new revelations explain a great deal about the apparent absurdity of the RDF. Saudi Arabia has agreed to set up 'ghost bases' fully equipped with munitions, weaponry, and other supplies, and to set up surveillance and communications systems which US troops would be able to use; so the RDF makes considerably more military sense. The Saudi bases form the 'missing link' in the chain of military bases which the United States has been creating over the past four years, from Kenya to Oman.

The US response to the 'peace plan' put forward by Saudi Crown Prince Fahd is also explained by the cementing of

this new US tutelage over his country. For the first time, an Arab-sponsored peace plan has not been dismissed out of hand by the White House.

It is as evident to the Americans as it is to the Saudis that the Camp David process is over. It was never intended to go any further than it has — the handover of occupied Sinai from one US surrogate state, Israel, to a client regime — Mubarak's, with the process guaranteed by US occupation forces.

That much has been clear since the Camp David agreement itself. The provisions relating to the separate peace deal between Egypt and Israel were specific; those relating to the future of the Palestinians and the Arab lands, other than Sinai, seized in 1967 were completely vague. But the Camp David accords have fulfilled a most useful function as far as the US is concerned; they have prevented any advance towards a permanent settlement of the Palestinian problem.

As long as there is tension in the Middle East then the Americans are happy. In a situation of peace, they would have no excuse to interfere. A settlement based on the rights of the Palestinians to return to their homes — whether they were dispossessed in 1967 or 1948, the dismantling of Zionism and the creation of a secular Palestinian state, led by the PLO, would exclude the superpowers from the region.

America cannot tolerate the thought of such a peace. The Fahd plan provides the basis on which talks can proceed fruitlessly for another four years — on the basis of US hegemony. It must have come as a shock to the Zionists to realise that the US cares little whether Zionists or Arabs control Jerusalem, as long as they are prepared to do what the US says.

The Saudi bases are not designed for the protection of Saudi Arabia from the Soviet Union. It is what the *Washington Post* calls 'other hostile forces' which the Pentagon has in mind. Those hostile forces, as far as the Americans are concerned, are the Arab people themselves. It is not the fear that the USSR will control the oil which motivates the US, it is the fear that the Arabs will control it.

It is not surprising that the US has singled out the Libyan Jamahiriya as the main obstacle to its hegemony over the Arabs. In Libya, the people have taken their natural resources into their own hands — which America fears more than anything. At a time when the United States has been planning the military encirclement of the Arabs, and has been proposing to base its own troops in Sinai, the attentions of the western media have been firmly directed towards the disturbed ravings of Sudanese ruler Jaafar Numeiri about a totally illusory 'Libyan threat' to Sudan. Like a conjuror, the United States tries to have the audience look elsewhere while it performs its sleight of hand. It works, but leaves the audience dissatisfied at the deception.

As Sadat and the Shah before him found, there is no future in following the American line. The Saudi rulers would be well advised to learn from history and from the voices of their own people before it is too late.

Americans should open dialogue and respect Libya's integrity

MUAMMAR QADHAFI has declared that Libya is fully prepared to resist any United States aggression in the Mediterranean area. Interviewed on American television on 19th October, the Libyan revolutionary leader warned that Washington was preparing for a war with Libya, and said, 'We are ready for a confrontation with the USA in the Mediterranean Sea.'

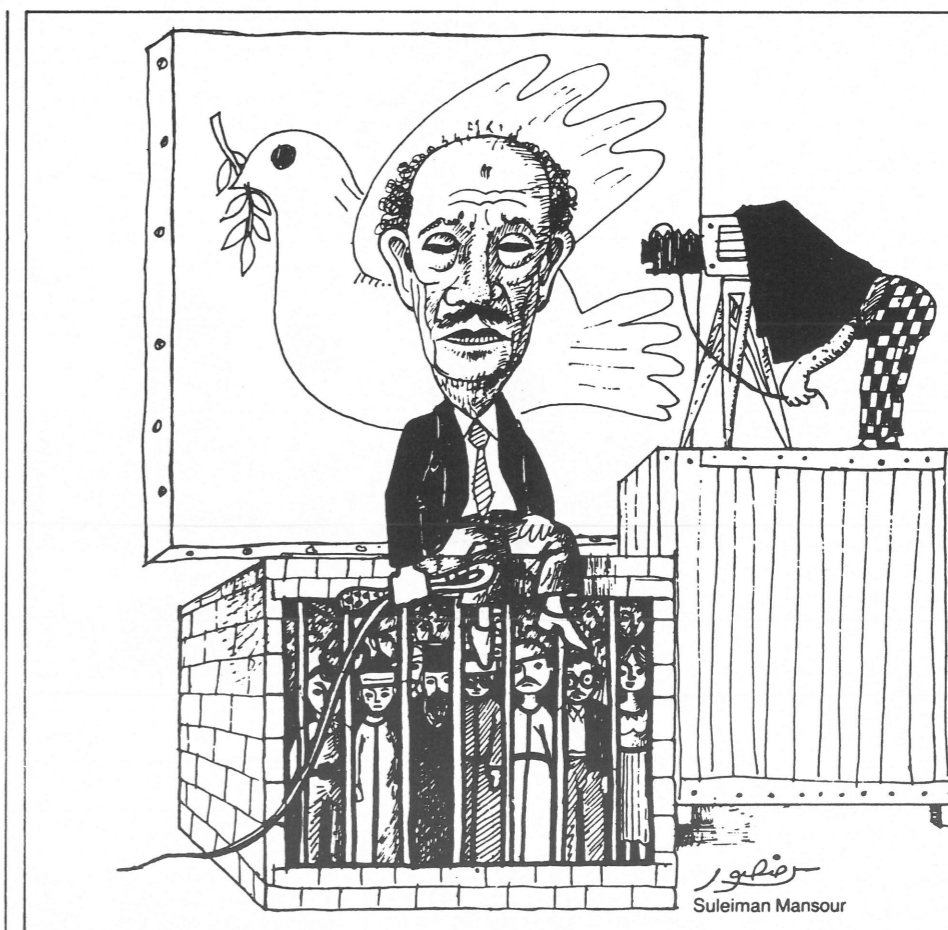
However, the Libyan leader also stressed the Jamahiriya's long-standing position of readiness to improve relations with the US through negotiations. 'We are ready for dialogue, and they should respect us and establish normal relations like those with other countries,' he said.

Commenting on the accusations of Libyan expansionist designs that have figured prominently in the disinformation campaign being orchestrated against the Jamahiriya by the US, Qadhafi said, 'They are lies. What they say is untrue and only misleads the American people, who do not know the facts.' He added: 'We are in our land. The USA is attacking us. We are innocent of all these accusations.'

Colonel Qadhafi stressed that Libya did not fear America's military might, and predicted a US defeat in the event of open hostilities. 'We can fight any superpower. It is our duty. It does not matter if we die — we are not afraid,' he declared. Libya, he said, had no wish for war, and would act only in self defence.

Democracy would end Egypt's isolation

THE STATIONING of British troops in Sinai as part of the US-sponsored 'peacekeeping' force will hurt British interests in the Middle East, a leading Egyptian opposition member told journalists in London on 3rd November. Dr Hikmat Abou Zeid, Minister of Social Affairs in



Egypt under Gamal Abdul Nasser, and now a leading member of the Egyptian National Front, which links opponents of the Egyptian regime in exile and at home, said the Front was opposed to the Camp David accords; its opposition was based on the policies followed by the Sadat regime, and not on personalities.

Dr Abou Zeid was accompanied at her press conference by a leading supporter of the Egyptian National Front in Britain, Dr Abdul Abu Bakr, who called for the establishment of a democratic national regime in Egypt, which would take all the treaties, including the Camp David accord, and put them to the Egyptian people for a real referendum. 'I am sure the Egyptian people will say no to Camp David,' he said.

Dr Abou Zeid said that the policies of the new Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were a continuation of those of Sadat over the last ten years, and needed urgent revision. 'Sadat's regime has brought us into conflict with our brothers,' Dr Zeid said. 'If you are opening doors with west-

ern countries, with the United States, you should not close doors. This makes Egypt isolated, an island, isolated from our family.'

If there had been a genuine peace accord, Dr Abou Zeid said, there would have been no reason for the west to put its troops between Israel and Egypt. 'We refuse these forces,' she averred. 'Our country should not be occupied at all by any foreign forces. We are absolutely sure of that; the Egyptian people will not like it at all.'

Dr Abou Zeid confirmed that the Egyptian National Front was not in any way a rival organisation to other opposition groups. She pointed out that the aims of the National Front were basically identical to those of the leading internal opposition group, the Progressive National Unionist Party led by Khaled Mohieddine. Both groups were calling for a restoration of democracy in Egypt, for unity with other Arab countries, for people's rights and economic freedom to alleviate the economic crisis caused by Sadat's 'open door' economic policy. Both

groups opposed this policy. 'We agree on the essentials,' she declared.

One further matter on which the opposition groups were united, the former Minister said, was the question of foreign bases in Egypt. 'How can Egypt be a peaceful country when it gives facilities to those countries, to the Americans?' she demanded. The Americans had created a system of bases stretching from Greece to the Gulf which threatened the interests of the people of the region.

Dr Abou Zeid was also critical of Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd's new peace plan, which she described as 'trying to save Camp David from its failure'. It would be a good thing, she said, if the plan served to remind the world that the United Nations resolutions on which it was based had been forgotten; but Israel would try to extract from any peace proposals those aspects which the Zionists wanted, and would ignore the rest, particularly the demand to give up territories seized in 1967.

Libya and Brazil act to support Angola

ANGOLA'S PRESIDENT José Eduardo Dos Santos has paid a three-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriya, during which he held a series of important meetings with Muammar Qadhafi and other senior Libyan officials. A communiqué issued on 2nd October at the end of the Angolan leader's visit stressed Libya's wish to strengthen its ties, including military links, with the west African state to help it resist the continuing aggressions launched against its territory by the apartheid regime in South Africa, with the approval of the Reagan administration.

Later it was disclosed that Brazil, which has close historical and cultural ties with Angola, may soon send troops to join the Cuban forces already helping defend the country against Pretoria. Announcing the news on 18th October, the *Observer* reported that when US Vice President George Bush visited Brazil a few days before, 'the Brazilians told him of their unhappiness with President Reagan's apparent softness towards Pretoria and apartheid and their unwillingness to assist the Government in Luanda against invasion from the south'.

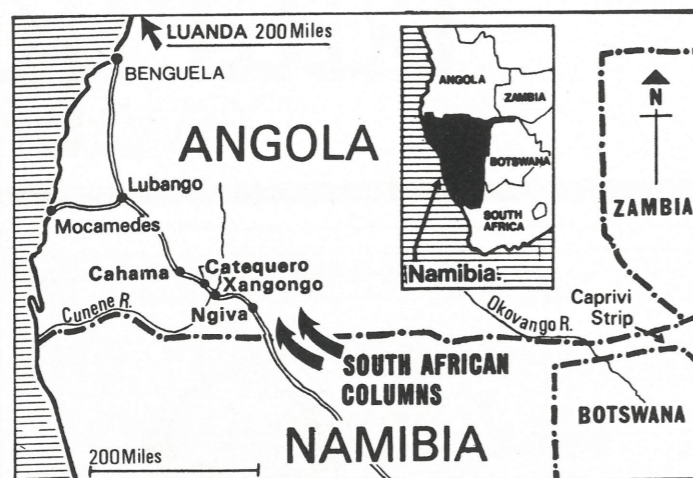
The paper commented: 'The Brazilian government has been dismayed by what it regards as Washington's back-tracking on independence for Namibia and its covert encouragement of Pretoria's attacks on Angola.'

Brazil has also moved to strengthen its ties with the Libyan Jamahiriya. On 5th October a general agreement for social and economic co-operation between the two countries was ratified during a visit to Tripoli by Brazilian Energy and Minerals Minister Cesar Calis.

The Libyan Jamahiriya commands wide support in Brazil for its egalitarian internal policies and its firm stand in support of oppressed peoples throughout the world. At October's national convention in Brasília of the newly founded Partido Dos Trabalhadores (Workers' Party) the representatives of Libya, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Poland received particularly warm welcomes.

Concern expressed over Sinai force

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has joined Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Lebanon in denouncing the proposed



No protest from Washington: South African troops move into Angola.

participation of European troops in an international 'peacekeeping' force to be installed along the border between Egypt and the Zionist state following the return to Egypt of the final part of Sinai next April.

The United States has been committed from the start to stationing about 1,500 troops in the border area, and has urgently been trying to secure the involvement of other countries. So far only Fiji, Colombia and Venezuela have positively declared their readiness to send troops. Australia seems intent on sending a contingent, while France, Italy, Holland and Britain have indicated their readiness to participate.

The Sinai force was called for by the US-sponsored Camp David accords, and Washington hopes that the participation of other countries can be used to demonstrate a measure of international support for Camp David which it has not in fact enjoyed. The world community has largely denounced the accords for their failure to secure justice for the Palestinians.

At the same time, the US hopes that international participation will allay Arab fears that the force will in reality amount to little more than a new American base in the Arab homeland, designed

to protect Washington's interests in the region.

On 25th October, Mr Abdel Ati Obeidi, Secretary of the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, told Britain's Ambassador in Libya of Tripoli's concern at possible European participation in the Sinai force. Britain is the current Chairman of the European Council of Ministers. Mr Obeidi reminded the Ambassador that the force was one of the provisions of the Camp David accords, which he said had become defunct with the death of Anwar Sadat on 6th October. The thrust of the Foreign Liaison Secretary's message was that European participation would be interpreted as implying backing for Camp David.

Jamahiriya calls for reforms at UN

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya has called for an end to the domination of the United Nations by western states that have proved unable to come to terms with the independence of Third World nations.

In a statement issued on 24th October, which is UN Day, the

Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau noted that the UN had made great progress in some political, social and cultural fields, but that the world was still suffering from intractable political and economic problems.

The statement continued: 'These problems are the result of imbalances between countries, the monopolisation of decision-making as represented by the veto power, and the hegemony exercised by colonialist countries that still do not accept the political and social changes brought about by various peoples.'

The Foreign Liaison Bureau concluded, 'The time has come to correct this hegemony practised by the majority at the UN Security Council.'

Kreisky accuses Zionists of 'primitive imperialism'

LEADERS OF the Zionist state of Israel have been angered by comments of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in which he referred to Beigin's 'primitive imperialist instincts' and compared events in Israel to the process that gave rise to Nazism in Germany.

In an interview with the French weekly *Nouvelle Observateur* on 13th September, Kreisky said that despite European leaders' sympathy for Israel, they believe a stalemate on the Palestine question seriously endangers European security.

Asked about his feelings about Judaism and Israel, Chancellor Kreisky said that the 'blind imperialism' of the Israelis was bound to end in catastrophe. 'The end will be a very bad one,' he added.

'What has happened to the Jews in Israel resembles the process that took place in Nazi Germany,' the Austrian leader continued. 'The Germans too were spiritual and romantic before they discovered the powers of weaponry. They also thought themselves to be the chosen people. It all ended tragically. The Jews are going through the same process. There was a time when they were described as cowards, incapable of defending themselves. Now, when they have a state of their own, they have proved themselves to be courageous and capable of defending themselves, but they wish to go further,' said Chancellor Kreisky. He concluded: 'This is bound to end in catastrophe'.

A week later, incensed at Chancellor Kreisky's comments, Zionist deputy premier Simha Ehrlich cancelled a scheduled visit to Austria.

Tripoli moves to strengthen ties with East Europe

A LIBYAN delegation headed by Muammar Qadhafi recently visited Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia. The Libyan leader's tour was in pursuit of the Jamahiriya's continuing policy of non-alignment, which is threatened by US military expansion in the Arab homeland.

The tour began on 22nd September when the Libyan team arrived in the Hungarian capital Budapest for two days of talks which included a meeting between Colonel Qadhafi and Mr Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. The visit ended with the conclusion of an agreement providing for an expansion of trade, and close scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries.

The Libyan delegation went on to Romania for a four-day visit that included talks with President Ceausescu. Romania is the only East European country that maintains diplomatic links with the Zionist state, and Muammar Qadhafi urged that these be severed. In a speech at the start of the visit, he reminded his audience that the Arab nation had greatly appreciated the action of those Socialist and African states that had broken diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 war, and suggested that the time was now ripe for Romania to follow suit. 'We both agree on the anti-imperialist struggle, and we therefore necessarily agree to struggle against America and Israel, as they both represent the same group,' the Libyan leader argued.

A communiqué issued on 27th September announced the conclusion of an agreement providing for expanded economic and trade ties. The two countries agreed to give special emphasis to co-operation in oil exploration, drilling and marketing, communications, agriculture and the search for subterranean water in the Jamahiriya.

The Libyan leader's tour ended with a round of talks in Belgrade with Mr Sergej Kraigher, President of the Yugoslavian collective leadership. Libya has maintained particularly close ties with Yugoslavia ever since the 1960 Al Fateh Revolution which ousted the western orientated regime of King Idris. The late Yugoslavian President, Josip Broz Tito, was one of the founder members of the non-aligned movement. Founded in 1956 at the Bandung Conference, the non-aligned movement provided the essential

international framework for developing countries to come together to influence world affairs in their own interests, free from super-power pressures. Libya has played a key role in the movement since 1969.

Libyan is committed to non-aligned policies, but America's increasingly provocative actions in the Arab homeland mean that the Jamahiriya sees its links with the Socialist countries as one way to counter US moves.

The membership of the Libyan delegation signified the importance the Jamahiriya attaches to these links. It included Mr Abdel Ati al Obeidi, Secretary of Foreign Liaison, Dr Abdel Salam al Treiki, Secretary for Liaison for Foreign Affairs, Planning Secretary Musa Abu Freiwa and Mr Bashir Jawda, Secretary for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation.

US Indians demand UN seat

AMERICA'S INDIANS have demanded a permanent seat at the United Nations, and have accused President Reagan of oppressing indigenous Americans. About 100 Indians staged a demonstration to press their claim to a UN seat outside the world body's European head-

quarters in Geneva on 15th September. The same day saw the start of a four-day conference in the city organised by indigenous peoples from many countries who are demanding the return of their ancestral lands.

Accusing President Reagan of complicity in suppressing people in the US who demanded land rights, Sioux spokesman William Means told the conference that there was a double standard of justice in America. 'It is alright to kill an Indian, but when he stands up for justice he is called a terrorist, rebel or communist,' he said.

Mr Means said the UN would never be a family of nations until Indian peoples were represented there. 'There is only one colour of mankind that is not seated in the UN, the red man of the western hemisphere,' he added.

Recent weeks have also seen protests by Australia's indigenous people against the suppression of their rights. In the wake of October's Melbourne meeting of Commonwealth leaders, the aborigines accused the visiting heads of government of ignoring their desperate plight.

Gary Foley, a prominent Aboriginal rights campaigner, said the Commonwealth leaders should not have limited their comments to support of the oppressed people of the apartheid state of South Africa. 'If you are going to

support the oppressed people in South Africa, as we do,' he stressed, 'to be consistent and not hypocritical you should also support the oppressed black people in this country.'

Aboriginal campaigners hoped the Commonwealth Conference would turn an international spotlight on the backward living conditions successive Australian governments have forced onto many of the 16,000 Aborigines. They wanted conference delegates to discuss a recent World Council of Churches report that harshly condemned Australian treatment of Aborigines. The report said racism had become entrenched in Australian society, and charged the government with failing to protect Aboriginal rights. But the Commonwealth leaders paid scant attention to the issue.

Disabled writers in UK praise Libya

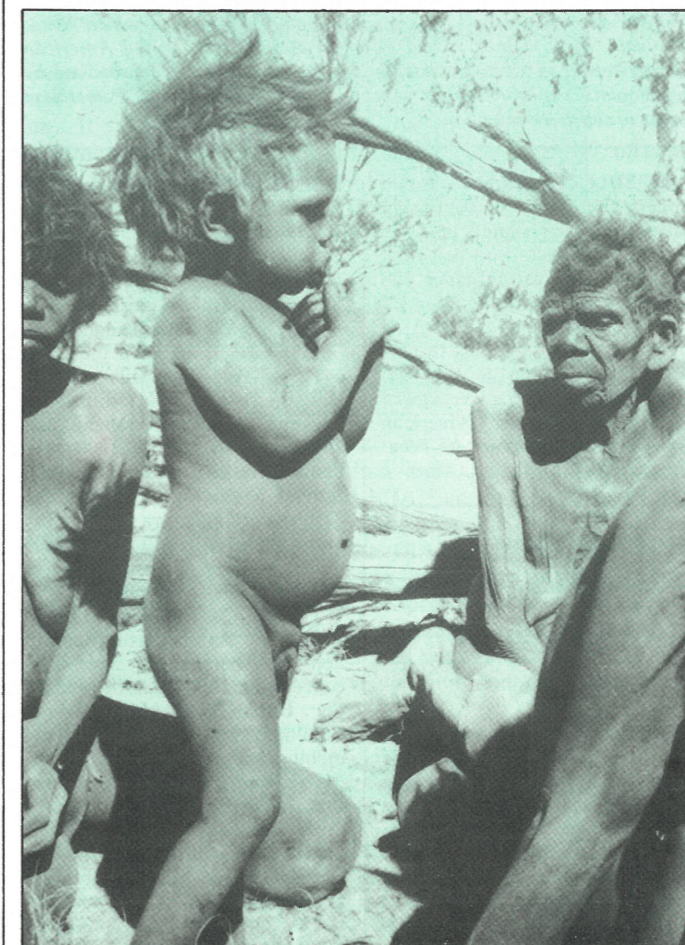
THE BRITISH National Association of Disabled Writers (NADW) has warmly praised the Libyan Jamahiriya's health care record. The latest issue of their *Newsletter* reviews the rapid development of Libya's facilities for the handicapped, and comments, 'Since the overthrow of King Idris in 1969 billions of dollars have been invested in hospitals, clinics and welfare for the disabled.' The NADW cite a string of major health sector contracts recently signed by the Jamahiriya, and remind their members that it was Libya that in 1977 proposed to the UN that 1981 be designated International Year of the Disabled.

The most recent signs of the Jamahiriya's commitment to her handicapped citizens were an international conference on the problems faced by the disabled, that opened in Tripoli on 27th September, and the country's first sports competition for the handicapped, staged two days earlier in Benghazi.

AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia 'humiliating'

THE UNITED States is to sell five AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia despite an appeal by Arab Americans calling on Riyadh to cancel the order because the debate over the sale had insulted the Arab nation.

In a telegram sent on 25th September to Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Dr Muhammad Mehdi, President of the Arab American Relations Committee, ►



Australian aborigines: the oppression continues.

► said that during the debate in Washington over the sale, American Zionists had been 'attacking the Kingdom, the Arabs and Islam'. These insults were intolerable, he said, when Saudi Arabia was 'giving \$8.5 billion to America for five airplanes stripped of their essential equipment'.

'We shall be losers whether Congress approves or disapproves the sale of the AWACS under these insulting and humiliating conditions,' Dr Mehdi added. He appealed to the Saudi Defence Minister 'to withdraw the purchase order of these five useless, expensive and humiliating planes,' a move which Dr Mehdi said would 'slap the Zionists on their face and direct the heaviest blow against their power in America'.

Support grows for non-aligned Europe

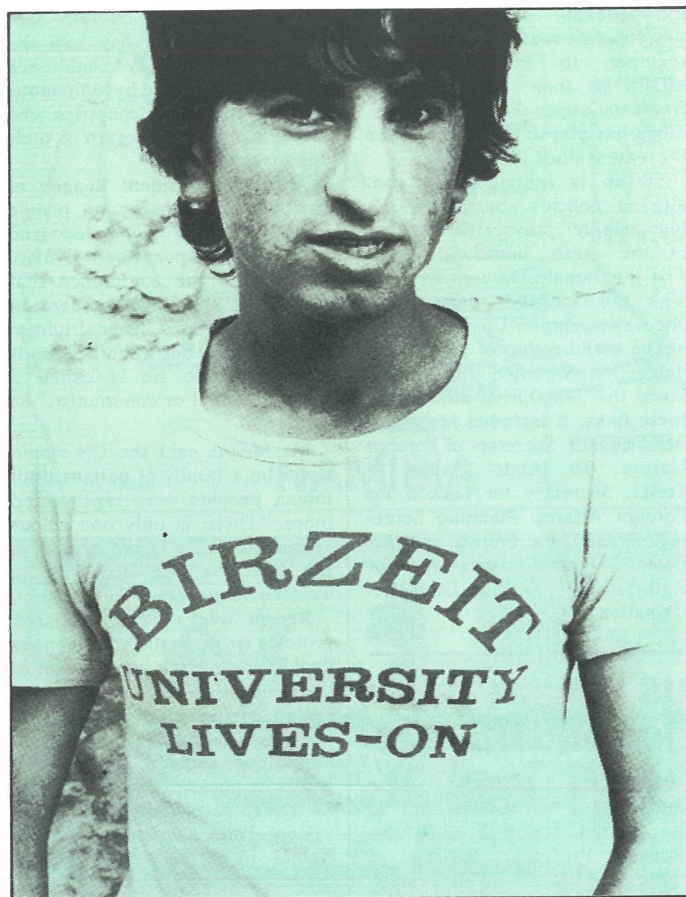
PROFESSOR E P Thompson, leader in Britain of the European Nuclear Disarmament group (END), has called for the European peace movement to use its growing mass support to free the continent from the grip of the two superpowers. He stressed that in two to three years, when the current nuclear missile escalation had been completed, it would be too late.

Addressing a meeting in London on 27th October, in a week when hundreds of thousands of people took part in anti-nuclear protests in European capitals, he said the strength of his END group was that 'as non-aligned Europeans we oppose the idea of the two superpowers seeking to dominate our continent and subordinate the other states — in the Soviet block or NATO block — to turn them into clients'.

Professor Thompson added: 'People ask me if it [END] is orchestrated and I tell them frankly, Yes it is. The orchestral conductor is President Reagan.'

Opposition groups unite to oust Siad Barre

THE SOMALI Salvation Front (SOSAF), the largest of the groups fighting the Siad Barre regime in Somalia, has merged with two smaller groupings, the Somali Democratic Liberation Front (SDLF) and the Somali Workers' Party (SWP), it was announced in October. The new united Somali opposition movement has been named the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, committed to the establishment of an anti-imperialist government in Mogadishu.



ZIONIST OCCUPATION forces closed down the Palestinian university at Bir Zeit on 4th November as part of a series of repressive measures against Palestinians on the occupied West Bank. More than thirty Palestinians, including young children were made homeless when the Zionists demolished two houses, and sealed another, in which lived, they said, three youths suspected of an attack on an armed American Zionist settler in Hebron. Palestinian protests have been provoked by the Zionists' continued military occupation and rejection of Palestinian rights to self-determination.

An SDF government would support the treaty of friendship and co-operation signed in Aden on 19th August between the Libyan Jamahiriya, Ethiopia and democratic Yemen to counter US military penetration of the Arab homeland. Siad Barre has thrown Somalia wide open to the US, offering a comprehensive range of military bases which American forces are on the point of occupying.

British firms warned on Zionist canal scheme

BRITISH FIRMS have been warned that any involvement in Israel's plan to build a canal through the occupied Gaza Strip to link the Mediterranean and Dead Seas, will jeopardise their interests in the Arab homeland. In a notice sent to its members in October, the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) warned: 'British firms and financial insti-

tutions should be aware that any participation in this scheme or any contributions to the fund raising effort towards its implementation will put at risk their business in Arab countries.'

The 100 kilometre canal, planned to start at Qatif on the Gaza coast of Palestine, will use the 400 metres altitude difference between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas to power a 600 MW hydro-electricity station that will provide about 15 per cent of the Zionist state's energy needs in the early 1990s. Already about \$100 million of the \$700 million cost of the scheme has been raised.

The ABCC says it was prompted to act by 'its increasing apprehensions concerning the UK-based campaign, spearheaded by the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce, to raise funds and mobilise support in Britain' for the scheme. Reminding members that the British Government sees the canal as illegal, the ABCC notice quotes the answer of Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to a question put to him in the House of Commons in July by Conservative MP Richard Needham: 'The pro-

ject as planned is contrary to international law, as it involves unlawful works in occupied territory and infringes Jordan's legal rights in the Dead Sea and neighbouring regions. No official support will be given by Her Majesty's Government in respect of the project.'

The ABCC also noted that the official British position had been closely echoed at a UN conference on new and renewable energy that ended on 21st August with a resolution strongly condemning the Israeli scheme. The conference, held in Nairobi, denounced the project as 'a violation of the UN Charter and international law', and as 'an aggression against the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their occupied land'. The delegates called on the Zionists to cease all work on the canal.

The ABCC said Israel's decision to go ahead with the canal 'indicates once more its intransigence and its lack of respect for world opinion in the face of widespread international condemnation'.

Grenada warns of aggressive US schemes

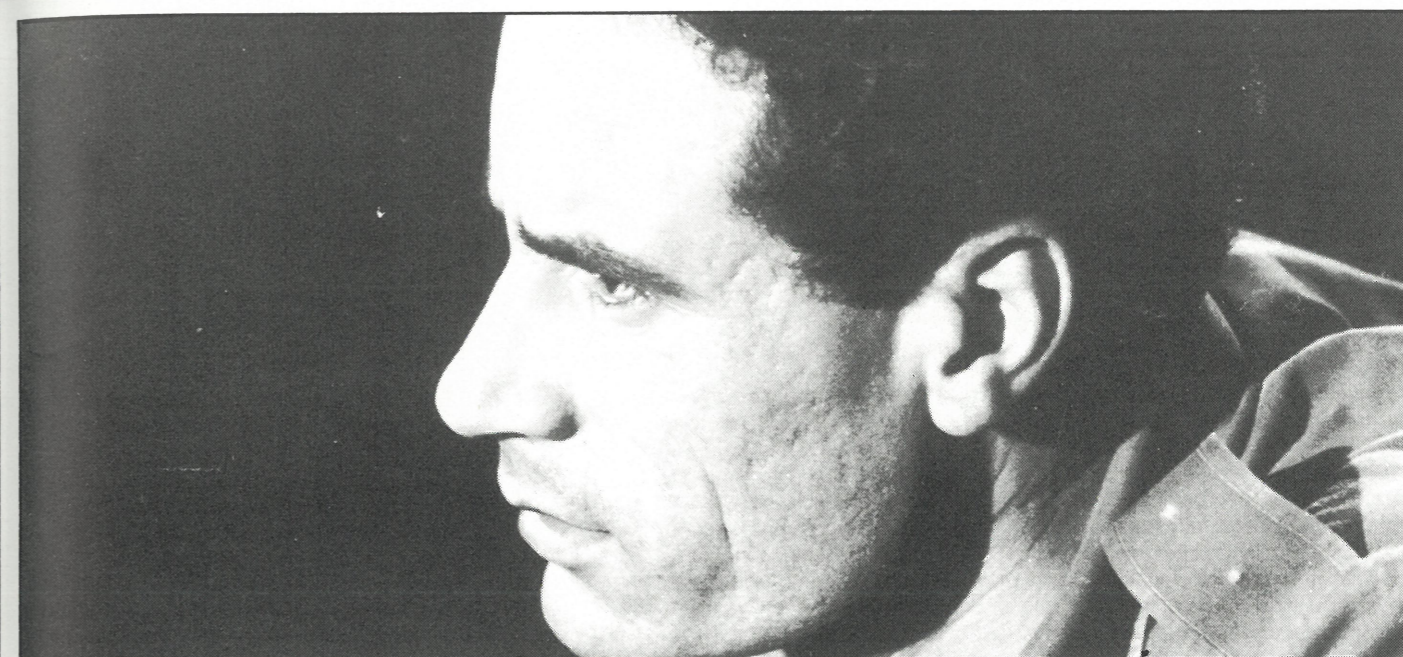
PRIME MINISTER Maurice Bishop of the Caribbean island of Grenada has accused the United States Central Intelligence Agency of plotting to destabilise his country, as the prelude to an open American invasion.

Speaking to newsmen in Melbourne on 6th October, Premier Bishop said the US had conducted military exercises that were a trial run for an invasion of the 133-square mile island. He added that the destabilisation efforts 'can easily be traced to the CIA. There is no doubt about it; it is very recognisable'.

Prime Minister Bishop disclosed that the military exercise was carried out in August on two Puerto Rican islands, on terrain strongly resembling that of Grenada. It involved transporting troops from California, roughly the same distance needed to reach his island state.

Mr Bishop, in Melbourne for the Commonwealth summit, quoted the commander of the exercise, Rear Admiral Robert McKenzie as saying it demonstrated US 'capacity to respond in the Caribbean basin'. He also said the admiral had described Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada as 'practically one country and a political-military problem'.

Grenada was clearly in mind as the target of the invasion exercise, since Cuba was too big in relation to the forces deployed and Nicaragua was on the mainland, declared Premier Bishop.



Libyan Leader Muammar Qadhafi

President Reagan's threats and self-deception

Muammar Qadhafi explains his views of the world to Der Spiegel

DER SPIEGEL'S three-man reporting team first questioned Colonel Qadhafi about the US-sponsored epithet for him — 'the most dangerous man in the world'. Was it justified, they asked?

Qadhafi: 'It depends what one means by dangerous. All I can do is to explain why America has used this expression. It's solely a question of political and psychological softening-up for a conquest of Libya. America wants to attack Libya and bring it under its control again. It doesn't need a direct occupation of the country by troops; it would be enough to bring down the revolutionary regime and replace it with another, pro-American, regime. That is one of the methods of American imperialism, and that's what I mean when I talk of American plans for invasion.'

Der Spiegel asked if the Libyan leader had been aware of the plans to assassinate him, hatched by the American CIA and exposed by a Congressional Committee in August.

Qadhafi: 'Of course they tried to realise their aim. They have to get rid of me; this is another step towards getting their hands on Libya. The indications that the plan was actually being put into effect only became obvious after the event. Shortly before these plans were exposed, many, many American visitors came to see me — as journalists, businessmen, politicians; all had suddenly expressed an interest in talking to me. I only realised afterwards that all this was happening at the instigation of the CIA, to spy on my life style, where I sleep, where I live, what I do.'

Information also came from America —

MUCH HAS been written about the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi during recent weeks. Almost all of it has originated from Washington. In these extracts from a 5,000-word interview with Qadhafi published in Der Spiegel, the Libyan leader explains his objectives and views, following the Gulf of Sirte incident.

from friends of Arab background, now US citizens, who had perhaps done a little work for the CIA, or had been approached by them. These people noticed the activity which the CIA was directing to Libya. They let me know that information was being collected about my eating habits; they warned me: 'Watch what you eat, who serves your food; don't eat it right away, have food and drinks tested first.'

I didn't take the warnings very seriously at the time, because I didn't believe that America, with the personal participation of the President, would carry out such a shameful plan. So the campaign against me and my policies has been stepped up.

I'm supposed to be behind every terrorist act, I'm supposed to be responsible for any evil deed which happens anywhere

in the world. When they realised that the poisoning attempt wasn't on, they suddenly decided instead to close our People's Bureau in Washington, to expel the staff and to break with us totally. Then they tried to have another go at us in the Gulf of Sirte.'

The Spiegel team acknowledged that although the whole assassination episode came across like a thriller, similar CIA plans were officially admitted to have been carried out, without success, against Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Qadhafi: 'These were facts that could not be covered up. That they tried to murder me is also a fact. They killed Martin Luther King, they killed Allende; they killed Lumumba. Why should they draw back from killing me?'

The Spiegel reporters went on to ask about the Libyan leader's reported threats to attack US bases in Europe, and allegations that he wanted to cause a nuclear war.

Qadhafi: 'Nonsense. What I wanted to say was the following: several units of the US 6th Fleet carry atom bombs; if the Americans attack us in the Gulf of Sirte, I have to work on the assumption that they might also attack us with atomic bombs. In that case, I would have the right to defend my people and my country by attacking NATO bases in southern Europe, or ships, from which the bombers are launched, before they reach us. If we were able to destroy these ships or bases, we would do so. I did not say that I wanted to attack Greece, Italy, or Spain. I said that if I discovered that an American attack had been launched from these bases, and



Occupation: US troops with AWACS arrive in Egypt.

► if I were able to knock them out, I would not hesitate to destroy them.'

Muammar Qadhafi refuted suggestions by the German reporters that Libya's reaction was disproportionate in response to what was in effect a 'border' dispute.

Qadhafi: 'We are not America's neighbours. We have no 'border dispute', even over a maritime boundary. The Gulf of Sirte is an essential security zone for us, an inalienable part of Libyan territory. We cannot sacrifice it. Our factories and industrial zones, our oil terminals, are all on the Gulf. Entering it is stepping on Libyan soil; anyone who forces their way in is declaring war on us, and that doesn't just go for the Americans, but for anyone else, no matter who it is.'

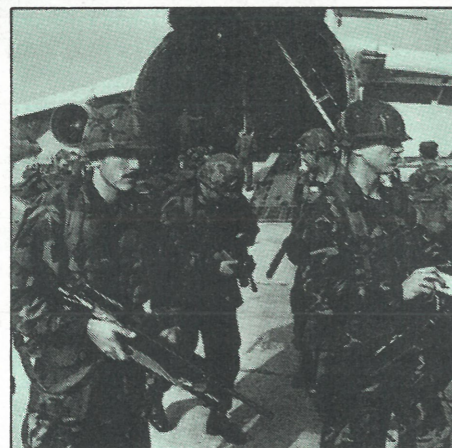
Colonel Qadhafi denied that in defending Libya, he would be responsible for any ensuing conflict.

'Since when has someone defending their country been a war-monger?' he asked. He also revealed that official messages from Greece, Italy, Spain, France and several western European countries had acknowledged Libya's right to the Gulf of Sirte and criticised the US action in sailing into Libyan waters without permission.

The interviewers asked how Libya proposed to defeat the United States. Would Colonel Qadhafi ask the Soviet Union for military assistance?

Qadhafi: 'The question is not how we can beat America. Each side knows the strengths of the other. I want to make the following very clear: you cannot give in when you are in the right — there would be no logic in that. Every weaker power would have to give way when the Americans demanded. If I don't have the power to realise my rights, it does not follow that I don't have any. In any case, we have military strength. Even if we could not defeat America, they should not delude themselves that getting rid of us would be an afternoon saunter.'

Colonel Qadhafi was asked about his description of US President Ronald Reagan as 'an unsuccessful third-rate actor'.



Had he ever seen any of the President's films?

Qadhafi: 'We showed Reagan's films on Libyan TV because we couldn't believe that an actor like that had become President of the United States. We fell about laughing, and we keep showing the films to give people a laugh.'

Spiegel's team pointed out that in Germany, Reagan was regarded 'one class higher' than third-rate. Colonel Qadhafi made his serious point:

Qadhafi: 'I have nothing against a man following the profession of his choice, earning money and supporting his family thereby... but because Reagan was only a third-rate actor, and unsuccessful, he has acquired an inferiority complex, and it is compensation for this inferiority complex which leads to stupid and precipitate actions — the Sirte incident is the best example of this. The inferiority complex under which Reagan suffers could lead to a world catastrophe. I think that he has not surmounted this contradiction of two roles. He still thinks that he's standing on a stage playing a part. He believes that there'll always be a happy ending, like in films, because he's still only an actor. That's why I am afraid he'll cause a catastrophe — because he is still playing out the role of actor, and the world is only a stage for him.'

The West German interviewing team went on to ask a number of questions about Libya and Chad. Why, as he was so

opposed to foreign intervention in other countries, had Muammar Qadhafi agreed to the Libyan intervention in Chad?

Qadhafi: 'Your question — we intervened in Chad — is unobjective, and so subjective and incorrectly put. The conflict in Chad had been going on for eleven years and we never intervened. We went in only after President Goukouni came to us. We didn't drag him here by force; he came to Libya of his own free will and signed a defence treaty with us. He asked us to help him with military aid to restore order in his country. We went in at his official request, spoken and written.'

We had previously supported the Chad national liberation movement, Frolinat, with weapons, money and everything possible. When they came to power, we said to ourselves: now we don't need to support them any more, they can stand on their own two feet. Even when Frolinat split between Goukouni and Habre, that was their business. We held back. We only went in when officially asked to.

Why are people so upset? They are not so disturbed by Tanzania going into Uganda, or when the French and Moroccans go into Zaire.'

Perhaps, the Spiegel team suggested, it was because of the spectre of Colonel Qadhafi.

Qadhafi: 'Then why am I such a spectre? I'm not an evil spirit; all I do is fight for freedom and against exploitation. Is that a reason to arraign me? Really, you should be backing me, not letting fly at me like this.'

Finally, the interviewing team asked about the so-called 'Islamic bomb', and alleged Libyan participation in attempts to manufacture nuclear weapons. They received an unequivocal response.

Qadhafi: 'I am against the manufacture of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world. Human beings have committed no greater crime than the invention and use of the atom bomb.'

So I say: the Dimona installation [in Israel — Ed.] must be destroyed in the interests of mankind, because the possession of atom bombs means nothing except the destruction of mankind... before it comes to that, they must be destroyed. I am totally convinced that Israel has an atom bomb. The Israelis have never let either the International Atomic Energy Agency, or anyone else, carry out an inspection. They've got something to hide.

Not only you Germans are in danger, but the whole of Europe. If there were no US bases in western Europe, the superpowers would have to fight a war between them — if it ever came to that — with their fleets and air forces launched from their own territories. But because there are US bases in western Europe, western Europeans are in greater danger than ever before of becoming victims of the superpowers.'

□ The translation of this interview published in German is unofficial.



Libya keeps its word on Chad withdrawal

AT THE request of the government, Libyan troops which have been assisting in the fight against foreign-backed guerrillas in Chad have begun to withdraw. Phil Kelly looks at the recent developments and Sudan's involvement in Chad's problems.

LIBYAN TROOPS began to leave Chad on 2nd November. The withdrawal followed a request from Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei. Libyan troops first moved in to Chad at the end of 1980, in response to a request from President Oueddei to assist the Chadian government against American backed rebels led by a former Defence Minister, Hissan Habre.

The western media has portrayed Libya's presence in Chad as an 'invasion'; but African countries, even those not entirely happy with Libya's actions, accepted that Libya was acting at the request of the legitimate government of Chad.

At the Organisation of African Unity summit in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of June, Libya, Chad, and other African nations agreed that Libyan troops would be withdrawn if the stability which they had brought to most of Chad could be guaranteed. But it was evident then that the OAU faced enormous financial and logistic problems in assembling such a force. The OAU agreed instead that the Chadian national army should be expanded and trained until it was capable of handling the Habre rebellion. (See inset: Sudan's scheme to destabilise Chad.)

President Oueddei said in June that 'While we face a rebellion sponsored by a neighbouring country, we obviously need help in keeping the peace. So far the OAU is only talking about sending in a pan-African force to help us.' The Libyan Jamahiriya's Secretary for Liaison for Foreign Affairs, Dr Ali Abdul Salem Treiki, said after the OAU meeting: 'After there is peace in Chad, whenever'

Described by The Times as 'peacemakers' in Chad, Libyan troops withdraw as part of Libyan-Chad agreement.



President Numeiri: Wild allegations a cover for subversion in Chad and chaos at home.

Sudan's scheme to destabilise Chad

SUDAN AND Egypt have been the principal backers of the rebel Chadian forces led by Hissan Habre. Habre, who had served as Defence Minister in the Chadian National Unity government established by all Chad's nationalist groups in August 1979, walked out of the Government in April 1980, and so restarted the civil war which the national unity government had brought to an end. Under its mutual defence treaty with the Jamahiriya, the Chad government called for assistance from Libya. With the aid of Libyan forces, Chadian government troops defeated Habre at the end of 1980. The remnants of his forces fled to the Sudan.

In the first few months of 1981, Habre toured the capitals of conservative Arab countries seeking arms and financial backing for his terrorist grouping. Approaches were also made to the United States and Britain for cash and mercenaries. These fundraising jaunts paid off. On 20th October, the International Herald Tribune reported that diplomats and Sudanese officials in Khartoum had admitted that Habre had received 'significant quantities of arms from Egypt', which included 'US-made machine guns, small artillery pieces and ammunition'. The weapons had been delivered to Habre's bases in western Sudan.

Using these weapons, Habre's forces made a number of raids into eastern Chad at the end of September, but were beaten back by government forces. Sudan claimed that Libyan air force MiG jet fighters had attacked border villages inside Sudan. Such reports were strongly doubted by western diplomats and reporters in Sudan, but independent evidence was, thanks to the Numeiri regime, rather hard to obtain. The International Herald Tribune on 20th October, reporting from Khartoum, said that the Sudanese government 'has barred correspondents and western military attachés from the western areas where Libyan attacks on villages had occur-

red. As a result, there is no verifiable information here on how many Libyans are based near the border, or the extent of their intrusions into Sudan, or on how many Sudanese troops are being moved in to the area.' Or indeed, the paper might have added, whether there had been any intrusions at all.

Sudan's backing for the Habre rebels is so covert that it has to be admitted by Numeiri's western paymasters. Yet even his own officials try to deny it. Reporting on a news conference by the Sudanese Defence Minister, Colonel Khalil, on 20th October, Times correspondent Nicholas Worrall wrote: 'A note of disbelief was introduced . . . when Colonel Khalil categorically denied that Mr Hissan Habre . . . was being assisted by Sudan in his guerrilla campaign . . . This alleged involvement has been widely reported for months.'

Worrall went on: 'He also denied that the Libyan air attacks on the Sudanese border village of Kolbus were motivated by the belief that the village was being used as a hide-out for the Habre forces. Yet when I visited the area last week, I was told by military sources that Kolbus was a Habre guerrilla base, and also that the Chadian guerrillas regularly visited the border town of El Genina 80 miles south where the Sudanese western military command is situated.'

Numeiri regime was not alone in its backing for Habre. In the New Statesman on 16th October, Claudia Wright reported that American, French and Saudi cash had helped re-arm Habre's terrorists. 'Last year's Franco-American plan was for covert aid to Habre to bleed Qadhafi's forces in Chad without escalating the conflict to the point of threatening the unstable western region of the Sudan,' she added. But this had not been enough for Numeiri, who, in trying to exaggerate the alleged 'Libyan threat' to Sudan, has inadvertently exposed to the world the support from his regime for Habre's destabilisation of Chad.

the Chadian government asks us and feels secure, we'll leave immediately.'

The force which will replace Libyan troops in Chad will be drawn mainly from other former African colonies of France, with Senegal providing the major contingent. Finance and logistic support will be provided by France. President François Mitterand is mainly responsible for the diplomatic pressure and behind the scenes lobbying which has overcome the impasse faced by the OAU in June. At a summit in Paris of former French colonies on 3rd and 4th November, the plan was agreed, and President Oueddei made his announcement that Libya had been asked to withdraw.

Part of the French diplomatic effort has been directed towards drying up western support for Sudanese backing for Habre, and after a flare up in September and early October, Habre guerrilla activity has declined sharply. (See insert: *Distraction from economic collapse.*)

The withdrawal from Chad will relieve the Jamahiriya of a difficult and burdensome task which it took on as a demonstration of its real, and not merely verbal, support for unity between countries of Africa and the Third World. Libya's presence in Chad has been the excuse for attacks on Libyan policies and intentions from a host of western and surrogate states in Africa. Most recently, Sudanese ruler Jaafar Numeiri falsely alleged that Libya intended to invade his country.

In response to repeated Sudanese allegations, the Libyan position was put at length to ambassadors in Tripoli from eastern and western Europe by the Secretary of the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, Abdul Ati al Obeidi. He held special briefings for the two groups of envoys on 20th October. If Egypt and the Sudan had internal problems, then that was not Libya's affair, he said.

Mr Obeidi told western diplomats that Sudan's ruler had uttered a series of threats against Libya — including a threat to assassinate Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi. The Foreign Liaison Secretary stressed: 'The Jamahiriya has no aggressive intentions towards the Sudan or any neighbouring country. The Jamahiriya, faced with these threats from the Sudanese regime and the dangers they pose to its people's freedom and achievements, will find itself obliged to take a decisive measure which deters any attempt or aggressive act by the Sudanese regime.'

Mr Obeidi placed the blame for the affair squarely on the United States: 'America is misleading Sudan and Egypt into believing the existence of an alleged danger from Libya. America's objective is to guarantee its hegemony over the Sudanese regime and keep Egypt and Sudan within its sphere of influence.'

But, he warned, Libya was ready to confront America if the latter tried to harm its safety and security.

Mr Obeidi declared that Sudan's 'overt backing' for Habre's forces 'is a clear violation of African decisions'. The latest

series of outbursts against Libya was attributable to Numeiri's desperate situation following the death of Sadat, he added.

The Jamahiriya's concerns, Mr Obeidi explained to western envoys, were focused on the safety and freedom of its people. Libya reserved the right to attack any terrorist camp which we believe is threatening our security and safety, because we believe that self-defence is a principle and a necessity,' Mr Obeidi insisted.

He concluded: 'Our second disagreement with Sudan's ruler is his support for Camp David. His recent meeting with Beigin (at Sadat's funeral) is, perhaps, a prelude to creating a new Sadat. This will not be accepted by the Jamahiriya under any circumstances. We will resist it because it threatens our security and the rights of the Palestinian people, and because it gives America the opportunity for further infiltration of the region.'

Intelligence

Attacks such as Numeiri's have been orchestrated by the intelligence agencies of various western countries. At the eleventh hour, French newspapers began reporting that a Libyan military force was moving towards Ndjamena, and that President Oueddei had disappeared. The respected French daily *Le Monde* revealed that the reports of troop movements were untrue, and had been fabricated by 'extremists in the French intelligence services' who wished to upset the plan for Libya to withdraw. Their motive was eventually to provoke an armed conflict between Libya and neighbouring African countries to provide a pretext for French military intervention. President Mitterand has set his sights firmly against further French military involvement in Chad or elsewhere in Africa.

Even the withdrawal itself provoked criticism of Libya. *The Guardian* reported from the Paris summit on 4th November that President Oueddei had been 'surprised' at the promptness of the Libyan response to his request for withdrawal. Astoundingly, *The Times*, one of the leading critics of Libya's actions in Chad, disapproved of the timing of the withdrawal in an editorial on 5th November: 'It must be doubtful whether any international force would be able to deal as effectively with the rebels as Libya did, helped by Goukouni army they were training. The best an OAU force is likely to be able to manage is to keep the two sides apart, allowing the rebels to rebuild their forces, laying the foundations for future trouble.'

A fulsome tribute to the Libyan Jamahiriya by President Oueddei, carried by the French news agency *Agence France Presse*, was ignored by British and American newspapers.

'Their mission to ensure the security of Chad has been accomplished. I believe that Libya can withdraw from our territory gallantly and with its head held high. They were the only nation which answered

IMF sets tough conditions to dollar aid for Sudan

From Nicholas Worrall, Khartoum, Oct 22

At Said Mahmoud's emporium in central Khartoum you can buy a colour TV set and thus enlist in the tiny elite who have adopted Western living standards while almost 18 million Sudanese are ensured no regular water supply and face an internal

in the past eight years has risen from £10m to almost £275m. Along with fuel, everything Sudan needs for continued food and export agricultural production has risen to prohibitive levels — fertilizers, insecticides, machinery, vehicles and spare

of a three-year credit of £270m but no cheques will be drawn until President Gaafar Nimeri's Government takes action it knows could provoke severe internal strife even among the tolerant Sudanese. The Sudan pound is linked to the United States dollar,

A headline from *The Times* points to Sudan's real crisis.

Distraction from economic collapse

THE £120 million loan from the International Monetary Fund made at the end of October 'staved off economic collapse' in Sudan, according to James MacManus reporting from Khartoum in *The Guardian* on 26th October. 'The agreement will allow the bankrupt Khartoum government to cover essential imports of oil and food,' he added.

The agreement is subject to the IMF's customary strict conditions about economic decision making. In a country where barely one person in twenty is literate, where health care in some regions is non-existent, and where inadequate communications exacerbate food shortages to a point where famine is an ever-present threat, the government will be forced to cut its spending. It will also be forced to devalue the currency, further worsening the plight of ordinary Sudanese. 'Such terms will inevitably mean a steep rise in food prices,' MacManus confirmed.

Sudan had no choice, given the decision of the Numeiri regime to align the country with Egypt and to place it totally at the disposal of the West. Its balance of payments deficit is running at some £550 million a year, and its owes £1.3 billion to foreign creditors. The IMF loan will also help Sudan in its negotiations to postpone payments on the £220 million of its foreign debt owed to commercial banks.

At the beginning of this year, Sudan did have a choice. It could have accepted an offer from Libya to provide military and civil aid, including assistance to arm and train the Army, for land reclamation, and to finance projects which would provide work for Sudan's unemployed.

The offer was made personally by Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi to the Sudanese Ambassador in Tripoli, on 18th February. At that meeting, and in several public speeches at the time, Colonel Qadhafi stressed that Libya had no military ambitions or

evil intentions towards Sudan, but was ready to provide the aid which would ease Sudan's unstable economy.

But the offer was turned down. Instead, in March, Sudan announced that it would become the only Arab state to renew diplomatic relations with Egypt, broken at the time of the Camp David agreements.

The alignment of Sudan with Egypt, and the worsening economic situation led to open opposition to the Numeiri regime in all sectors of Sudanese society. The response of the authorities was brutal repression. In March, opposition to Numeiri's Egyptian advisers in the Army resulted in the arrest of a retired General, Sa'ad Bahr, and other military personnel. At the end of May, a strike by railway and other transport workers led to the arrest of the leader of the rail workers' union, Abbas Al-Khar, and the breaking up of the union.

In September, Numeiri's troops and police rounded up at least 120,000 people who were opposed to the Camp David accords and the state of the country's economy. The regime described it as 'a campaign of discipline'. While Numeiri tried to pretend that the only threat to Sudan's stability was a military threat, even normally-staunch supporters of western interests in Africa demurred, seeing the main destabilising factor as being the desperate economic situation. 'The most pervasive threat to Numeiri lies closer to home; the country's agricultural production has plummeted; the worst single event has been a fifty per cent decline since 1976 in cotton, the main cash crop. The foreign reserve cupboard is bare as Khartoum tries to cope with the highest debt service payments in Africa. Privation feeds unrest and a jittery government has reportedly filled the jails with thousands of political prisoners,' the Washington Post said on 16th October.

our appeal when we held out our hands to our Libyan brothers. Chad will never forget the support Libya provided,' President Oueddei declared.

Both Libya and Chad have said all along that the presence of Libyan forces was in response to a request from the

legitimate government, facing a threat from foreign backed guerrillas. Both countries said that the assistance would end when it was no longer needed, and that no one would have to force the Libyans to withdraw. Libya and Chad have been proved right, and their detractors wrong.



Millions of Palestinians driven into exile by the Zionists.

What are the rights of the Palestinians?

THE UN General Assembly will meet this autumn to consider the Palestine question, and there is no doubt that Israel will again be censured for its flagrant disregard of the Palestinians' national rights. Faced with persistent Zionist intransigence, the General Assembly is likely to consider a programme of sanctions to be imposed against the Zionist settler state in Palestine.

The Palestinians' inalienable rights, as defined by the UN General Assembly, include the right to self determination in an independent state of their own in their country, and the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and property seized by Israel. Further, they have the right to play a full role in any peace negotiations, through the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, internationally recognised as their sole legitimate representative.

For many years after the Zionist usurpation of Palestine in 1948, the rights of the Palestinians were simply ignored. At best the Palestinian Arabs were treated as nothing more than a refugee problem. As late as 1967, this was still the prevailing view. Security Council Resolution 242, passed in the wake of the June 1967 Zionist war, when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip regions of Palestine, as well as the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula and the Syrian Golan Heights, did not even mention the Palestinians by name, referring only to the need for 'a just settlement of the refugee problem'.

In the subsequent years, however, the international community became increasingly aware that the Palestinians were being denied the fundamental rights which other peoples have long taken for granted. But it is unlikely that the situation would have changed if it had not been for the armed struggle launched against the Zionists by the Palestine Liberation Organ-

THE ZIONISTS' persistent violation of the national rights of the Palestinians continues to create instability and conflict in the Middle East. To mark the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29th November, Dr Alan George examines the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. No new initiative to resolve the Palestine question will succeed so long as it ignores these rights which the PLO insists must be the basis for any settlement.

isation in the late 1960s. Having waited patiently for some twenty years for the international community to take action on their behalf, the Palestinians finally took matters into their own hands. Their growing military power meant that they could no longer be ignored. And the Palestinians' military successes paved the way for rapid political and diplomatic advances.

By the early 1970s, the PLO had succeeded in thrusting the Palestine question to the top of the international agenda. In November 1974, in Resolution 3236, the United Nations for the first time spelled out comprehensively the 'inalienable rights' of the Palestinians. These were defined as 'the right to self-determination without external interference', and 'the right to national independence and sovereignty'. Further, the UN declared

that the Palestinians had an inalienable right 'to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted'. The UN recognised that the Palestinians were a 'principal party' in the establishment of a just peace, and endorsed their right to secure justice 'by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles' of the UN Charter. This entailed endorsement of the Palestinian armed struggle.

The UN stressed that 'full respect for and the realisation of these inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are indispensable for the solution of the question of Palestine'. The resolution also referred to the PLO as 'the representative of the Palestinian people'.

These inalienable rights were restated even more forcefully last year, in Resolution ES - 7/2, passed after a special emergency session of the UN General Assembly convened to discuss the Palestine question. Instead of the right to 'national independence and sovereignty' called for in Resolution 3236, however, the 1980 Resolution stated unequivocally that the Palestinian people had the 'right to establish its own independent sovereign state'.

Rather than the Palestinians being seen as a key party to any negotiations, as stated in 3236, the 1980 Resolution reaffirmed 'the right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East'.

Resolution ES - 7/2 also restated that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace could not be established 'without the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Palestinian and other territories, including Jerusalem, and without the achievement of a just solution of the problem of Palestine on the basis of the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine'.

Israel, of course, has voted against all the UN resolutions setting out Palestinian rights, and, with the blessing of the United States, has pressed ahead with its colonisation of the Arab lands seized in 1967 with a view to their ultimate annexation. The US-sponsored Camp David accords, which provide for an Israeli evacuation of Sinai in return for a peace treaty with the regime of the former Egyptian ruler Sadat, and for limited 'autonomy' for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, have offered the Zionists a convenient cover for their expansionist policies. Several years of futile talks over the future of the Palestinian areas seized in 1967 have resulted only in a tightening of Israel's grip over the two regions.

Camp David has not led to any lasting solution; nor will it. It was doomed to failure because it ignored Palestinian rights. And as the UN has stressed, no peace settlement can emerge which is not firmly based on those rights.



Libyan-Vatican ties: Muammar Qadhafi with the late Cardinal Pignedoli.

The need for workers' democracy

IN THE *Green Book*, Muammar Qadhafi argues that 'the most important characteristic of the economic systems prevailing in the world today is the wage system, which deprives the worker of any right in his production, whether it is produced for society or for a private establishment.' The solution, the Libyan leader suggested, is the adoption of the slogan 'Partners not wage workers.' Working people, the Libyan leader urged, should take over companies and control them themselves.

Laborem Exercens translates as 'participating in work', though the encyclical is known as *On Human Work*. It was published in the fiftieth anniversary year of the encyclical by Pope Pius XI, *Quadragesimo Anno*, or *Fortieth Year*, which itself was Pope Pius' updating of the fundamental statement of Catholic social teaching, Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, *Of New Things*.

From the Catholic viewpoint, work is intrinsically an expression of the individual. When God instructed mankind 'to go out, and multiply, and to subdue the earth,' He intended human work to be an expression of the innate dignity of human beings. Those who work therefore must have the right to control over their work. 'We must emphasise and give prominence to the primacy of man in the production process, the primacy of man over things. Everything contained in the concept of capital in the strict sense is only a collection of things. Man, as the subject of work, and independently of the things he does — man alone is a person, his truth has important and decisive consequence,' the latest encyclical says.

Work must therefore be organised to give the worker control of how he works, the Pope says. 'A labour system can be right,' the encyclical continues, 'in the sense of being in conformity with the very essence of the issue, and in the sense of being intrinsically true and also morally legitimate, if in its very basis it overcomes the opposition between labour and capital through an effort at being shaped in accordance with the principle put forward above; the principle of the substantial and real priority of labour, of the subjectivity and real priority of labour, of the subjectivity of human labour and its effec-

THE STRIKING parallels between the Catholic Church's views on social and industrial life, and those advocated by the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi have been demonstrated in Pope John Paul's newest encyclical which deals with the rights and duties of workers. Ali Azziz examines the common ground on the important issue of workers' democracy.

tive participation, in the whole of the production process, independently of the nature of the services provided by the worker.'

Workers first

In a speech to a rally marking May Day, 1978, in Tripoli, Muammar Qadhafi also demanded that workers should be the principle and determining force in the organisation of production. Attacking those who raised the slogan of 'worker participation in management', the Libyan leader described managers as 'those who exploit the workers, even by allowing them to participate in management. The workers should be the real managers, for workers ought to be free. They are the majority in the world . . . they should be the managers, with no other partners.' He sharply criticised 'those who pretend progressive-ness and try to give workers a share of the profits.' 'From where do these profits come?' Qadhafi asked, answering: 'It is the result of the workers' labours during the production process.'

In order to ensure that human beings can express their inherent dignity through their work, they must form unions and other organisations. The Pope writes in *Laborem Exercens*: 'In order to achieve social justice in the various parts of the world, in the various countries, and in the relationships between them, there is a

need for ever-new movements of solidarity, of the workers and with the workers. This solidarity must be present whenever it is called for by social degradation of the subject of work, by exploitation of the workers and by growing areas of poverty and even hunger.'

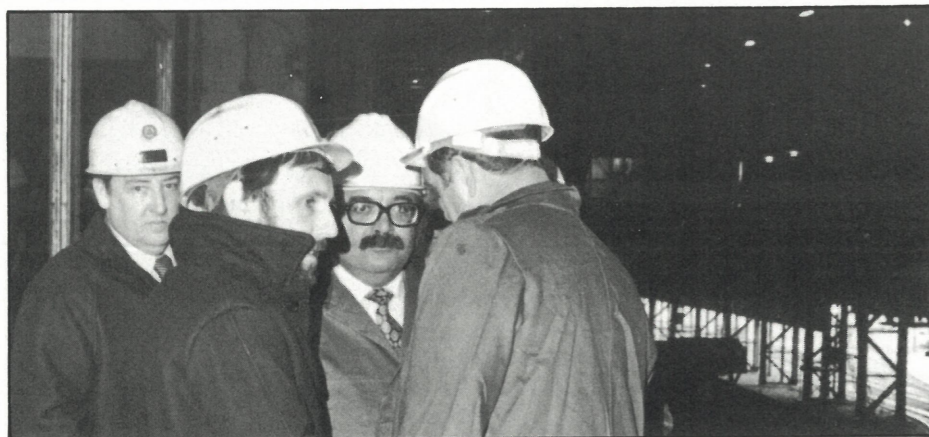
This bears strong resemblance to Muammar Qadhafi's call in 1978: 'If the workers do not manage all the centres of production, and consume their own production, they will be exploited.'

Both the encyclical and the *Green Book* concur in seeing the capitalist and orthodox Communist systems not as opposites between which a middle way must be sought, but as aspects of the same exploitative system in which man is alienated from his work and from what he produces. Both Qadhafi and His Holiness have tried to set out principles on which a different, non-exploitative order might be built. Both are trying to transcend the system, which operates in East and West, by which a worker receives only wages for performing tasks which are set down for him or her from on high, and over which they have no control.

In using their organised strength to obtain improvements for themselves, workers must not thereby exploit others. 'Satisfaction of these needs must be attained without exploiting or enslaving others, or it will contradict the purpose of the new socialist society,' wrote Colonel Qadhafi in the *Green Book*. 'Unions must be a weapon for social justice, and not a weapon for struggle against others,' says *Laborem Exercens*.

One further aspect of the convergence of the thought of Pope John Paul and Muammar Qadhafi is the role of private property. Both support the right to private property, so long as this does not conflict with the rights of others. Food, housing, clothing and transport are specified in the *Green Book* as being essentials for private ownership. For the Catholic Church, the right of private ownership 'must be subordinated to the right to common use.'

'Goods are meant for everyone,' says His Holiness. 'All that is beyond the satisfaction of individual needs should remain the property of all members of society,' says Muammar Qadhafi.



Heavy Industry Secretary Omar al Muntassir (second from right) talks with British Steel workers.

British firms should be active in Libyan markets

'I THINK we are on the right path now towards further improvement of economic and political relations with the United Kingdom.' This is how the Libyan Jamahiriya's Secretary for Heavy Industry, Mr Omar al Muntassir, summed up his feelings at the end of his recent visit to Britain — the first by a Libyan official since 1971. Mr Muntassir said he had stressed in his talks with British officials that the UK should act more in accordance with its interests in the Arab homeland, rather than follow blindly the dictates of the Reagan administration. He emphasised that Libya wanted greater involvement by British firms in her development programme, and urged them to be more aggressive in the Libyan market.

During his visit, which ended on 1st November, Mr Muntassir held talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, with Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, and with Mr Roy Williams, an Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade. He also met with Lord Selsdon, Chairman of the Committee for Middle East Trade (an unofficial body dedicated to promoting British-Arab trade links), and with representatives of British industry.

Included in his programme were visits to British Steel's complex at Newport in south Wales, to the Massey-Fergusson plant in Coventry and to the GEC factory in Rugby. A joint venture between the Jamahiriya and Massey-Fergusson recently started agricultural tractor assembly at a new plant in Tajoura, near Tripoli, and Libya is involved in another joint venture with GEC in Malta. British Steel was consultant for the first phase of the integrated steelworks under construction at the Libyan coastal town of Misrata.

Last January Libya launched its \$62.5 billion development plan for the 1981-85 period, and Mr Muntassir pointed to shortages of manpower — particularly skilled workers — and also of capable contractors as the two key problems facing the plan's implementation. 'Some projects

RECENT WEEKS have seen clear signs of determined moves by Britain and the Libyan Jamahiriya to improve relations. The Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretary, Omar al Muntassir, paid the first visit to Britain by a Libyan official since 1971 and top Foreign Office officials held two days of talks in Tripoli. At the end of his visit, Mr Muntassir talked to Alan George of his hopes for the future of Anglo-Libyan relations.

just don't get enough good companies to implement them,' said the Heavy Industry Secretary, adding: 'That is why we hope British firms can play a role, because we really need them.'

Another reason for Libya's wish for greater British participation was the Jamahiriya's long-standing policy of avoiding over-dependence on contractors from any particular country, or group of countries, said Mr Muntassir.

At present, he revealed, contracts valued at LD 244 million were under way by British firms in the Jamahiriya, excluding consultancy and supply contracts. The figure could be much higher, Mr Muntassir said, pointing out that Britain's main competitors such as the Germans and Japanese, had contracts under way worth billions of dinars.

The Heavy Industry Secretary placed prime responsibility for their modest showing on the British firms themselves. Britain's recession had eroded their competitiveness, but over the past five years their position had greatly improved, he said. Despite this, however, firms lacked confidence. 'They are scared that

they cannot compete — with the South Koreans, the Turks, the Italians and the Germans. They feel that they can't compete, and some of them don't even bother to bid for contracts,' said Mr Muntassir. He cited by way of example the case of Libya's first aluminium smelter, being built at Zuwara, to the west of Tripoli. The \$800 million construction contract has just been won by an American company, and the Heavy Industry Secretary disclosed that there had not been a single bid from Britain, despite UK firms' expertise in this field. 'They need to be a little more aggressive,' said the Secretary.

Mentioning the car industry, and health, agriculture and civil engineering as sectors of Libya's economy with particular scope for British involvement, Mr Muntassir said Britain enjoyed a number of advantages over her main competitors. The English language was widely spoken in the Jamahiriya, and the country was relatively near to Britain. 'There are good opportunities for British firms,' he said, 'and they should seize them.'

Mr Muntassir revealed that a British trade delegation will shortly be visiting the Jamahiriya to assess the scope for greater involvement by British companies in Libya's development programme. The mission will probably visit in January 1982, he said.

Britain's interests

Turning to political links, the Secretary for Heavy Industry said he had been greatly encouraged by his talks with British officials. 'I stressed very much that their politics should lie where their interests are, and not where somebody else's interests are,' he said, in a clear reference to the tendency of successive British governments to toe the US line on international affairs. He revealed that after reviewing obstacles to closer links, 'We were all agreed that the problems are not insurmountable.'

Stressing that the Jamahiriya was very much interested in improving political as well as economic ties, Mr Muntassir said: 'What we ask is, don't judge us before you understand us. All we ask is, listen to us, and discover where your interests lie.' He added that the Jamahiriya did not expect Britain to agree with Libya's policies. That, he said, would be asking too much. 'But at least we can ask that you understand what our position is,' said the Heavy Industry Secretary.

Another clear sign of the strengthening relations between Britain and Libya came with a two-day visit to Tripoli by Mr John Moberly, Assistant Under-Secretary at the British Foreign Office, and Mr John Mills, Head of the Foreign Office's North Africa and Middle East Department. At the end of their visit on 20th October, Mr Moberly told the Jamahiriya News Agency JANA that their talks had been fruitful, saying, 'We look forward to the strengthening of relations in all fields and the creation of a new climate of relations between the Jamahiriya and Britain.'

THE TURKISH firm of Dogus Insaat & Ticaret has won a \$250 million contract from Libya's Derna Municipality to build 2,574 homes, nine sports centres, two carpet weaving workshops and associated utilities, it was announced on 23rd October. The work will be at twelve sites in the municipality — which is located in north east Libya — and is for completion in 30 months. Istanbul-based Dogus is one of Turkey's leading construction firms and the contract is its first move into overseas markets.

Turkish firms are playing an increasingly important role in the Libyan Jamahiriya's development programme, and this is expected to become still more significant following the signature on 27th June of three protocols on industrial co-operation and investment, bilateral trade and transport and communications. The agreements provide for an expansion of Turkey's exports to the Jamahiriya to \$1 billion in 1982, for priority for Turkish bidders in Libyan heavy industry contracts, and for the appointment of Turkish managers to some Libyan industrial plants, which will process raw materials imported from Turkey. Turkish firms will participate in Libyan ventures for the manufacture of construction materials, plastics and motor vehicles and parts. The Jamahiriya, meanwhile, will send students and workers to Turkey for technical training.

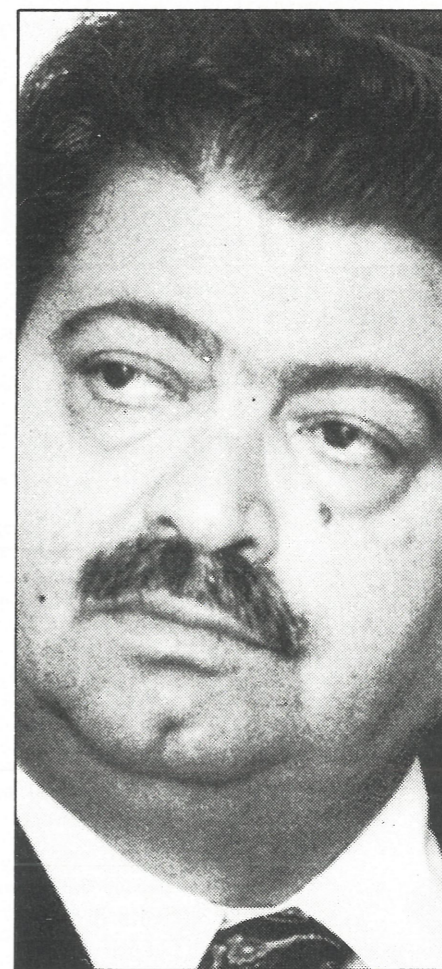
An agreement was reached in principle to set up a joint Turkish-Libyan holding company for investment, to be based in Istanbul and with an initial capital of \$100 million. The holding company will invest in firms operating in the fields of agriculture, industry and trade, and will be entitled to buy shares in other firms and to set up new companies. Other Islamic states will be able to buy shares in the holding company.

The agreements followed talks in Ankara between Libyan Economy Secretary Abu Zayd Umar Durdah, and Turkish Deputy Premier and chief economic planner Turgat Ozal.

In July, shortly after the conclusion of the agreements, it was announced that a joint Turkish-Libyan company specialising in agriculture and livestock had been set up with an initial capital of \$10 million, half provided by each country.

Further evidence of the strengthening economic ties between Turkey and Libya also came in July, with the announcement that the Turkish Central Bank and a consortium of Libyan banks had agreed a \$100 million loan to finance imports of raw materials for Turkish factories.

The \$250 million contract awarded by Derna Municipality to Dogus is only the most recent in a string of major deals clinched by Turkish construction firms in the Jamahiriya. On 24th July it was reported that Turkey's Ozdemir Insaat Kollektif Sirketi had recently been awarded contracts with a combined value of \$290.4 million. The first, awarded by the Misrata municipality, is for a 15,500 square metre administrative centre, two residential



Turgat Ozal, Turkey's economic planner.

Sharp rise in Libyan ties with Turkey

TURKEY IS fast becoming a major trading partner in Libya's development programme. A series of contracts in recent months underline the important role which less industrialised countries such as Turkey and India are able to play in the development of the oil producing states.

blocks, a theatre, a guest house, three post offices, a fire station, and a multi-storey building containing 12 apartments and an old people's home. The company is also to build a 35-40,000 tonne capacity

silos and a drinking water network, and will also renew the town's existing water supply system. Other infrastructural work will be done on Misrata's roads, and electricity and sewerage networks.

Ozdemir Insaat's contract is the second largest Turkish construction contract won in Libya. The biggest was the \$282 million contract won by Sezai Turkes Feyzi Akkaya Construction Company to build the port for Misrata's iron and steel works. An unusual feature of the new contract, reflecting the spirit of the Turkish-Libyan economic agreements, was that no tender had been issued for the contract. It was awarded to Ozdemir Insaat after prequalification.

Ozdemir Insaat's other contract is for work at Bani Walid, about 100 kilometres south of Tripoli, where the Turkish firm is to build a hotel, and 250 homes with related infrastructure, ten schools, a warehouse and a kindergarten. The \$54 million contract is for completion in 26 months.

Later in July it was announced that Turkey's Genel Muhendislik Insaat Sanayi & Ticaret (GM) had won construction contracts valued at \$110.7 million. The Turkish firm is to build a \$7.8 million sewerage system at Al Acelet for Sabratha municipality, and four new villages, an olive oil factory, a sunflower oil factory, a briquette factory and packaging plant are to be built for Al Aziziah municipality at a cost of \$84.4 million.

GM is currently working on a \$58 million contract to provide schools, clinics, post offices and a trading centre complex in Garyan, and also on a \$14.1 million contract for water storage facilities in Tarhuna.

In August two firms in Turkey's Cukurova group won contracts, with a combined value of about \$200 million, for the construction of two sewerage treatment plants. The Baytur company was awarded a \$54 million contract for a 12,800 cubic metre per day capacity plant to serve 64,000 people in Tobruk, on Libya's north east coast. After the new plant's completion in three years, the existing plant will be abandoned. Effluent from the new plant will be used for irrigation.

The Tek Ser firm won the other contract, for a similar plant in Misrata. Work will take about four years, and the Turkish company will train local staff and also maintain the plant during its first year of operation.

More than 40 Turkish concerns are now participating in Libya's development programme, and Libya has become Turkey's most important Arab export market after Iraq. Turkish exports to Libya totalled \$616 million in the first five months of this year, and export contracts valued at a further \$408 million were also signed. Of Turkey's 110,000 overseas workers and technicians, about 65,000 are in Libya, according to the quarterly review of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

\$800 million aluminium smelter under way

AN AMERICAN joint venture of Kaiser Engineers and National-Southwire Aluminium Company (NSAC) has won an \$800 million design and construction contract for the Jamahiriya's first aluminium smelter, to be located at Zuwara, on the coast 120 kilometres west of Tripoli. NSAC will supply the technology while Kaiser will provide the engineering.

The Zuwara smelter is one of the largest single projects in the Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion development plan for the 1981-85 period. Scheduled to enter operation by mid-1986, it will produce 120,000 tonnes of aluminium per annum. The plant will use imported alumina, probably from Yugoslavia, and will have its own port, currently being designed by Britain's Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners. Last March the Italian firm Foster Wheeler Italiana won a \$45 million engineering, procurement and construction supervision contract for a \$500 million petroleum coke plant which will supply materials for use in the smelting process.

The Sarajevo-based firm Energoinvest is to set up a joint Libyan-Yugoslavian company to manage the smelter and coke plant.

West German consultants Vereinigte Aluminium Werke, which advised the Jamahiriya's Heavy Industry Secretariat on choosing a contractor to build the smelter, is currently negotiating a further contract to supervise purchase of equipment for the project.

Libyan fleet expands to 25 ships

THE ARRIVAL in Tripoli port on 25th October of the 9,420 tonnes cargo ship *Sirte* has brought the Jamahiriya's merchant fleet to 25 vessels. The 134 metre *Sirte* was built at Rostock, in the German Democratic Republic, and two sister ships are nearing completion at East German shipyards, one for delivery by the end of the year, the other next February.

The delivery of the three new vessels will mark an important step in attaining the targets of the current 1981-85 development plan. This calls for an expansion of the Jamahiriya's merchant fleet to 60 vessels by 1985, when about 60 per cent of all the

country's imports will be carried on Libyan-owned ships.

The expansion of Libya's fleet is being accompanied by an impressive port development programme, with the 1981-85 plan calling for an increase in the country's port capacity from 7 million to 16 million tonnes. The latest achievement was the opening of Misrata's new fishing port on 18th September as part of the celebrations marking the twelfth anniversary of the Al Fateh Revolution. The port includes several piers, workshops for boat repair and maintenance, and fish freezing plants. Built by the Yugoslavian concern Ivan Milutinovic Inland Waterways, the port can accommodate up to 30 vessels at a time, and cost more than \$12 million.

Traffic at Misrata's commercial Qasr Ahmed port is continuing to increase, the *Jamahiriya News Agency* JANA reported on 29th September. In the first half of this year, 447 ships totalling 655,000 tonnes called there, said JANA. Qasr Ahmed was opened in June 1978, and has already been expanded.

Three new sea links

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya's international maritime links have been greatly improved in recent years to meet the demands of her ambitious development programmes, and three new services have been inaugurated in recent weeks, two from Britain and the other from the Soviet Union.

A new container service from Britain was started in October by Anglo European Container Line. The firm offers a thrice-weekly sea and rail service from the east coast port of Harwich to Ravenna in north east Italy. From there, containers are shipped to Tripoli every ten days by Italy's DRT Line, which has operated this leg of the service for some years.

September saw the start of a container service from Britain via Spain, jointly operated by Hispania Maritime of the UK and the Compagnie Algero-Libyen de Transport Maritime (Caltram). The British firm operates a service every eighteen days between Liverpool and Valencia, while Caltram operates three sailings per month from there to Tripoli and Benghazi. Hispania says the service offers an eighteen-day transit time.

Also in September, the Soviet Union's Black Sea Shipping Company started a ferry service linking Odessa and Tripoli, with outward calls at Varna (Bulgaria), Piraeus, Naples and Algiers, and the return voyage including stops at Piraeus, Istanbul and Varna. The service will

be operated by the 9,878 gross registered tonnes Polish-built *Dmitry Shostakovich*.

\$67 million electricity order for Sweden

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya's Electrical Construction Company (Ecco) has awarded a \$66.8 million contract to the Swedish firm Asea to design and supply electrical equipment for six high-voltage substations. The order includes switchgear, circuit breakers, relay and control equipment and prefabricated steel buildings.

The Swedish company already has a turnkey contract from the Electricity Secretariat to build the 220/66 kV substations in or near the town of Sebha in the south west of the Jamahiriya. Scheduled to enter operation in 1983 and 1984, they will feed power from switching stations on the coast into the south west's existing 66 kV grid. At present this is supplied by local diesel power stations.

Under Libya's ambitious \$62.5 billion development plan for the 1981-85 period, fixed investment in the electric power sector is scheduled to increase at an average annual rate of 15.1 per cent. Over the whole plan period, spending on the sector has been set at LD 2 billion, while the 1981 budget stands at LD 250 million. A key aim is the establishment of a country-wide electricity distribution grid.

Rapid growth of light industries

THE ITALIAN firm Moneta Impianti & Engineering is to start work soon on a \$36 million plastic goods factory to be sited at Surman, 60 kilometres west of Tripoli. *Middle East Economic Digest* reported on 2nd October. The factory will be Moneta's third in the Jamahiriya, and brings the total value of the firm's Libyan work to \$80 million.

The Surman factory, to be completed by July 1983, will have an annual capacity of 4,300 tonnes of goods such as plastic crates, bottles and kitchen utensils.

Moneta's two other factories were completed last summer and have just been officially opened. A \$15 million bicycle factory, with an annual capacity of 75,000 bikes, was opened by Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi on 21st September. A cardboard box factory in Tripoli was opened by Light Industry Secretary Amr Ahmad al Maqsi on 24th September. The \$30 million factory has a yearly capacity, with single

shift working, of 15,000 tonnes of medium sized cartons.

The industrial sector is accorded the lion's share of investment in the Jamahiriya's 1981-85 development plan — LD 3.9 billion, representing 23 per cent of total plan expenditure of LD 18.5 billion. Of the allocation for manufacturing, LD 1.2 billion is earmarked for light industries. Industrial output as a whole is scheduled to expand during the plan period at an average annual rate of 21.6 per cent.

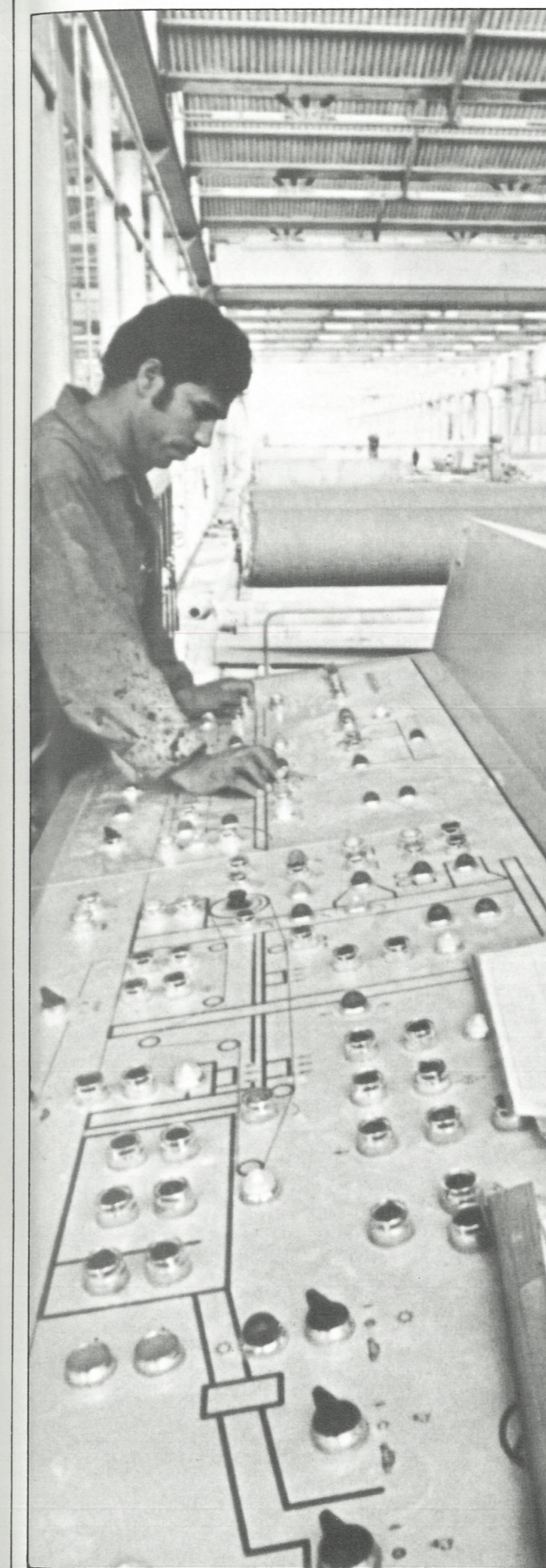
The rapid pace of Libya's light industrial development has also been highlighted by a 19th October announcement by the *Jamahiriya News Agency* JANA that contracts have been signed for the construction of two building materials factories. Both are scheduled to enter operation by the middle of next year. One will produce wheelbarrows, shovels and ploughs, the other nails, windows, barbed wire and chains. JANA added that two other factories are nearing completion, one to produce insulating materials and the other special nails used in constructing prefabricated housing. Plans are being drawn up for a prefabricated homes factory, said JANA.

The Libyan Jamahiriya aims at self-sufficiency in foodstuffs by the turn of the century, and the current five-year plan calls for a drop in food imports to 38 per cent of local consumption by the middle of the decade. The hope is that 35 per cent of consumption of processed foods will be covered by Libyan factories by 1985. Food processing is consequently a major focus of light industrial development efforts, and October saw the completion of the latest dairy produce plant. Built by South Korea's Samsung Construction Company and located at Homs, on the coast about 150 kilometres east of Tripoli, the \$23 million plant took 22 months to construct.

New sports stadia opened

TWO NEW sports stadia have been opened in north east Libya, at Shahat and Beida, the *Jamahiriya News Agency* JANA reported on 28th September. Officially opened by the Secretary of the Jebel Akhdar Municipal People's Congress, the new stadia offer facilities for basketball, volleyball, tennis, table tennis and other sports.

JANA added that the sports committee of the Jebel Akhdar Municipality has signed contracts for the construction of further stadia in Susa, Fayidiyah, As Sultana, Omar Mukhtar, Qandoula, Qasr Libya and Fajr Jadid.



Hungary wins \$10 million railway contract

THE HUNGARIAN concern Tesco/Uvater has won the \$10 million construction supervision contract for a 170 kilometre single track, standard gauge railway line to link Tripoli with Ras Ajadir on the Tunisian frontier, it was announced in September. It will be the first link in the railway network that the Jamahiriya plans to establish by 1984.

The main construction contract for the \$500 million railway, which was also designed by Tesco/Uvater, is expected to be awarded soon, with work to start next year. Tenders from five countries have been evaluated by the British Rail subsidiary Transmark.

The Secretariat for Communications and Marine Transport has invited tenders for work on the next section of the railway system, to link Tripoli with the coastal town of Misrata. The 200 kilometre section has been designed by Britain's Mott Hay & Anderson.

The third, and longest, link in the network will join Misrata with the south western town of Sebha. A major function of this 922 kilometre line will be to transport 5 million tonnes of iron ore per annum from the Wadi Shatti area near Sebha to the steel works currently under construction at Misrata, and due to enter operation by 1985.

Syria-Libya unity moves boost trade ties

WHEN LIBYAN leader Muammer Qadhafi called for union between the Jamahiriya and Syria in his 1st September 1980 speech on the eleventh anniversary of the Al Fateh Revolution, observers saw a sound economic basis for the merger. Syria has a relatively advanced industrial sector, producing a wide range of consumer goods which are in great demand in Libya.

Recent Syrian successes in the Libyan market have demonstrated the mutual economic

benefits stemming from the two countries' very close relations. In early September it was announced that the Syrian Industrial Garments Company had won a \$4.2 million order for ready-to-wear clothes.

Later, Syrian Industry Minister Hussein al Qadi visited the Jamahiriya where he held talks with the Heavy Industry Secretariat on ways of increasing co-operation on heavy industrial projects. On 21st September he opened a special exhibition of Syrian manufactures staged at Tripoli's international fair ground, where orders were placed for Syrian goods worth at least \$50 million.

Syrian exports to Libya should be sharply boosted by a trade agreement signed in October, under which Syrian products will receive priority over imports from all other Arab countries.

Libya strengthens links with South Korea

SEPTEMBER'S INAUGURATION by Korean Air Lines of a direct weekly service between Seoul and Tripoli was only one in a series of recent signs of the rapidly growing trade links between South Korea and the Libyan Jamahiriya.

In October it was disclosed that in the first eight months of the year Libya accounted for almost half the worldwide exports of South Korea's Dong Oh Commercial Company, the country's largest enamelware manufacturer. Goods worth \$800,000 were sold to the Jamahiriya out of total exports of \$1.7 million.

South Korea's Samsung Construction Company is currently working on a \$75 million contract to build a petroleum products terminal at the coastal city of Misrata, 150 kilometres east of Tripoli, and in August it was reported that the Italian firm Worthington Sytech had been awarded a \$3.4 million sub-contract to supply all the utilities and pumping sets for the project. The terminal is scheduled for completion next March.

The scene was set for continued expansion of trading links between the two countries in the coming years by the conclusion of an economic and technical co-operation agreement in August. The agreement was signed during a visit to Seoul by Libya's Housing Secretary, Muhammad al Manqoush. His was the first visit to South Korea by a senior official of the Jamahiriya since the two countries established full diplomatic relations last January.

The eternite plant at Janzour: modern technology is at the heart of Libya's industrial development programme.

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